

REMARKS

The Examiner's communication dated August 15, 2006 has been received and carefully considered. In conformance with the applicable statutory requirements, this paper constitutes a complete reply and/or a bona fide attempt to advance the application to allowance. Specifically, claims 7 and 22-23 have been amended and detailed arguments in support of patentability of all claims have been included. Reexamination and/or reconsideration of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 10-19 and 21 were allowed.

Claims 1-9, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feichtinger et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0026392).

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hongu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,384,375).

The Claims Distinguish Patentably Over the Reference(s) of Record

Claim 1 calls for a wire feeder having an input lead connected to the output lead of one remotely located power source of a plurality of power sources. A receiver on the one remotely located power source shifts the remotely located power source to an on condition upon receipt of a starting signal with a given code that is specific to the one remotely located power source. A transmitter is on the wire feeder to transmit the starting signal with the given code to the one remotely located power source when a trigger switch is closed whereby the one remotely located power source is shifted to its on condition when the trigger is in a weld position.

In Applicant's response to the Examiner's initial Office Action, claim 1 was amended. In particular, one amendment made to claim 1 was to indicate that the input lead of the wire feeder is connected to the output lead of one remotely located power source of a plurality of power sources. Another amendment to claim 1 was to specify that a starting signal with a given code is specific to the one remotely located power source (i.e., not to any of the other power sources of the plurality of power sources recited in claim 1).

In maintaining the rejection to claim 1, the Examiner appears to have copied verbatim his earlier rejection to original claim 1. Since original claim 1 did not recite one remotely located power source of a plurality of power sources or a starting signal with a given code being specific to the one remotely located power source, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 in the most recent Office Action is inadequate because it does not address how the applied reference (Feichtinger) discloses or fairly suggests each and every limitation of claim 1, including the limitations that were added in Applicant's last response.

More particularly, Feichtinger fails to disclose a wire feeder having an input lead connected to the output lead of one remotely located power source of a plurality of power sources. Further, Feichtinger fails to disclose a receiver on the one remotely located power source that shifts the remotely located power source to an on condition upon receipt of a starting signal with a given code that is specific to the one remotely located power source. In summary, the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 is inadequate because he has not shown how the applied reference discloses or fairly suggests each and every limitation of claim 1 and because the applied reference used to reject claim 1 does not disclose or fairly suggest each and every limitation of claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-6 dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Claim 7, as amended, calls for transmitting a signal with a specific code particular to only the one particular power source of the plurality of power sources from the wire feeder to the one particular power source when starting of a welding cycle of a welding process is sensed. Claims 7 further calls for starting the one particular power source upon receipt of the coded signal to direct power to the wire feeder by a power cable connecting the remotely located wire feeder to the one particular power source.

Applicant respectfully submits that Feichtinger, the reference used in rejecting claim 7, fails to disclose a method for turning on one particular power source of an electric arc welder from a plurality of power sources. On page 4 of the most recent Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that the prior art of record, which includes Feichtinger, fails to disclose a plurality of power sources. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that Feichtinger cannot be asserted to disclose the method of claim 7 for turning on one particular power source of an electric arc welder from a plurality of power sources.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that Feichtinger fails to disclose transmitting a signal with a specific code particular to only one particular power source of a plurality of power sources. Feichtinger is only concerned with a single power source and a single wire feeder. There is no distinction between a particular power source and the remaining power sources of a plurality of power sources. Further, there is no distinction between the transmission of a signal that is specific or particular to only one particular power source of a plurality of power sources.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 and claims 8-9 dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Claims 10-19 and 21 were indicated as being allowed.

Claim 22, as amended, calls for an electric arc welder with an output lead connected to one power source of a plurality of power sources and a transmitter for transmitting a coded identification signal unique to only the one power source of the plurality of power sources on the output lead. Again, Applicant points out that the Examiner has indicated that the prior art of record fails to disclose a plurality of power sources. In the rejection of claim 22 of Hongu, however, the Examiner indicates that any structural limitations provided by the limitation to a plurality of power sources in claim 22 is obvious over Hongu. In particular, the Examiner indicates that it is considered obvious that different models of power supplies might be present in one location, the reason being to provide for different functionality in the same welding location. Applicant points out that claim 22 presently calls for a transmitter that transmits a coded identification signal unique only to one power source of a plurality of power sources. Applicant asserts that Hongu does not disclose the transmission of a coded identification signal that is unique to only one power source of a plurality of power sources.

For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 23, as amended, calls for a wire feeder with an input power lead connected to one power source of a plurality of power sources and a receiver for receiving a coded identification signal from the one power source on the input power lead. Claim 23 further calls for each of the plurality of power sources, including the one power source, to have a transmitter for transmitting an identification signal unique to the transmitting power source. The coded identification signal received by the receiver is claimed to be unique to the one

power source of the plurality of power sources connected to the input lead. Applicant respectfully asserts that Feichtinger, the reference used to reject claim 23, fails to disclose a wire feeder with an input power lead connected to one power source of a plurality of power sources. As already discussed, on page 5 of the most recent Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the prior art of record fails to disclose a wire feeder in relation to a plurality of power sources.

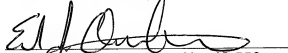
For all of these reasons, it is respectfully asserted that claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All formal and informal matters having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. It is believed that the claim changes clearly place the application in condition for allowance, defining over any fair teaching attributable to the references of record. Alternatively, if the Examiner is of the view that the application is not in clear condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned for purposes of conducting a telephone interview to resolve any outstanding differences. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

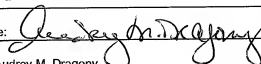
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